

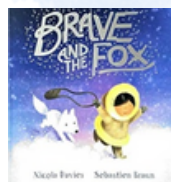


To develop our talking skills, we will:

- Share memories and experiences of Christmas, using group discussions and Tapestry to share photos from home.
- Learn and use new vocabulary linked to seasons, weather, animals, and the world around us. e.g. winter, ice, melting.
- Talk about stories, characters, settings and events as a larger group to build confidence.
- Ask questions to find out more about people, objects and the world.
- Play listening games that support listening, attention and understanding.

As readers & writers we will:

- Explore and learn the difference between fiction and non-fiction books, using non-fiction books and online sources to find out information.
- Discover how stories are structured, including beginnings, middles and endings.
- Create story maps and simple plans to support storytelling and writing.
- Learn to write simple lists (e.g. items for an adventure or things needed in cold weather)
- Label pictures and sequence events.



Spring



Our Big Question in Reception:

Why is it so cold?

The questions we will be answering are:

How do I know it's winter?

Are we prepared to explore in the cold?

How do people live in cold places?

Which animals live in the cold?

What is happening to the ice caps?

Why do we celebrate Pancake Day?

The texts we will be reading this half term are:

In phonics, we will:



- Learn sounds and letters: j, v, w, x, y, z, zz, 'z' (s) e.g. is, qu.
- Learn common words: he, she, we, me, be, was, my, you, her, they, all, are.
- Continue to put common words into practice: I, no, the, into, to, go.

To develop our gross and fine motor skills, we will:



- Take part in active listening and movement games such as "Snowman Says", copying actions and following instructions.
- Develop balance and coordination by jumping between "icebergs" and moving like penguins in Antarctic-themed games.
- Practise running, jumping, and stopping safely during outdoor winter movement sessions.
- Develop control through cutting paper snowflakes and winter shapes.
- Develop pencil control through drawing and painting polar animals and winter scenes.
- Use dough and small tools to model snowmen and characters from stories.



As mathematicians, we will:

- Develop further, our understanding of numbers by recognising quantities without counting, spotting groups within numbers, matching numerals to amounts up to 5, and playing dice games to link number order with quantity.
- Build counting skills by finding totals, knowing numbers to 5 stay in order, and understanding that each number is one more than the last.
- Deepen our understanding of 5 by exploring how it can be split into parts and recombined through practical and visual activities.
- Use number language such as "groups", "parts" and "whole" to talk about what we notice.
- Explore how numbers are made up by using dice patterns to understand the parts of 5, and begin to see 6 and 7 as 5 and a bit.
- Compare quantities, notice when sets are equal or unequal, and use the language 'more than', 'fewer than' and 'an equal number' to describe them.
- Explore length and height and the sequence of time, using the days of the week rhyme and our timetable to support this.



To explore the world, we will:

- Learn about winter as a season, noticing cold weather, shorter days, and how people keep warm.
- Discover animals that live in cold places and how they adapt, including penguins and polar bears.
- Use maps and globes to learn about the UK, the Arctic, and the Antarctic, and understand that seasons differ around the world.
- Explore ice, water, and change, including freezing and melting, and begin to understand caring for our planet.
- Find out about migration and why some animals hibernate during winter months.



To develop our social & emotional skills, we will:



- Settle back into school, rebuild friendships, and re-establish routines.
- Learn to talk about our feelings, including how winter weather and new experiences make us feel.
- Practice taking turns, sharing, and working together through games, group activities, and play.
- Build confidence by trying new challenges. We will learn to keep going, even when something feels tricky.
- Develop kindness and empathy, using encouraging words and helping our friends to succeed.
- Learn about dreams and goals, feeling proud of our achievements and understanding that effort leads to success.



As artists, designers & musicians we will:

- Explore winter colours and textures by creating snowy scenes, Arctic landscapes, and polar animal artwork
- Use a wide range of materials (paint, collage, foam, dough, fabric and recycled items) to create and design models, such as snowmen, igloos, and icy habitats
- Develop creativity and imagination through large-scale messy play, including painting, printing, and foam play inspired by snow and ice
- Join in with songs, rhymes, and musical activities, using their voices and bodies to explore sounds, rhythm, and movement linked to winter and animal